

28 April 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: UN Briefing on 27 April 1955

1. General Babcock stated that he had received his orders. He is to command all US combat forces in Austria. In the event of an Austrian settlement they will withdraw to Germany. He is to report to his new assignment on 29 June and is being relieved of his present assignment on 1 June. General Babcock will be relieved as Counselor for the UN Mission by Mr. James Marco who has been his number two man and also served in the same capacity for his predecessor. General Babcock stated that he had recommended that the State Department assume the responsibility for this position and that Mr. Marco's assignment was also in accord with his recommendation. A special clearance was requested some time ago for Mr. Marco and when cleared, if before General Babcock's departure, he will be brought into the briefing. I will request Security for advice on this matter.

2. Subjects covered were:

- a. North Korea: Status reports on troop withdrawals.
- b. Japan: USSR-Japan negotiations to be in London; Hatoyama expected to survive Diet with conservative merger afterwards.
- c. Offshore Islands: Status report on situation with emphasis on air picture. I thought it would be of interest to the General by way of an example of the things being watched for indications on Communist activities to report the present study being given the possible significance of the ChiCom Civil Air Conference. I emphasized to him that the similarity between this air conference and to the one prior to the ChiCom entry into the Korean War may be only coincidental. He understood that the matter was still undergoing very close study.

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d. Afro-Asian Conference: Report of Nehru's dissatisfaction with the conference. Egyptian press reports that Nasr seeks later conference in Cairo.

e. South Vietnam: Bao Dai's plan for new government. General Babcock expressed considerable concern over this situation and asked for an explanation of the French position that would explain to him what they were about. I told him that I understood that the matter had become a subject for high policy decision and that there are differences as to what course of action the US should follow. I stated that the French were able to use Diem's administrative shortcomings and the danger of a head-on collision with the sects as an argument for his dismissal. Diem's nationalistic character and [redacted]

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[redacted] was probably the more basic explanation.

f. Laos: Pathet Laos negotiators time arrival to Vientiane with Bandung conference. 25X6

g. Austria: Report on Soviet demands for critical goods to be delivered in place of \$150,000,000; Soviet terms on oil deliveries with brief discussion of oil resources and future production out of known reserves; Austria seeks four power guarantee; brief discussion of Soviet long-range objectives. General Babcock was of the opinion that Germany was a long-range objective in the Austrian move.

h. East Germany: Report on the truck-toll situation.

i. USSR: Report on the aircraft display in Moscow and the significance of the number of [redacted] 240 m.m. gun all in preparation for May Day Parade. 25X1A

25X1D

Failure of RB-47 to return from flight out of Alaska. I emphasized to the General that our only knowledge of the possibility of Soviet responsibility was [redacted]. He felt that it was unlikely that the Soviets would take the initiative in publicizing the incident but he was appreciative of being advised of the development.

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j. Guatemala: Recent report of possibilities of a coup. The General hoped that there would be no more trouble out of Guatemala.

3. As the General had requested a more detailed explanation of our view that Soviet tactics on the atomic disarmament negotiations were originally related to the ratification fight, I gave him a chronological review of developments subsequent to the French-UK proposal of 11 June 1954.

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[REDACTED]  
Presentations Division

OCI:SDB/sah (28 April 1955)

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